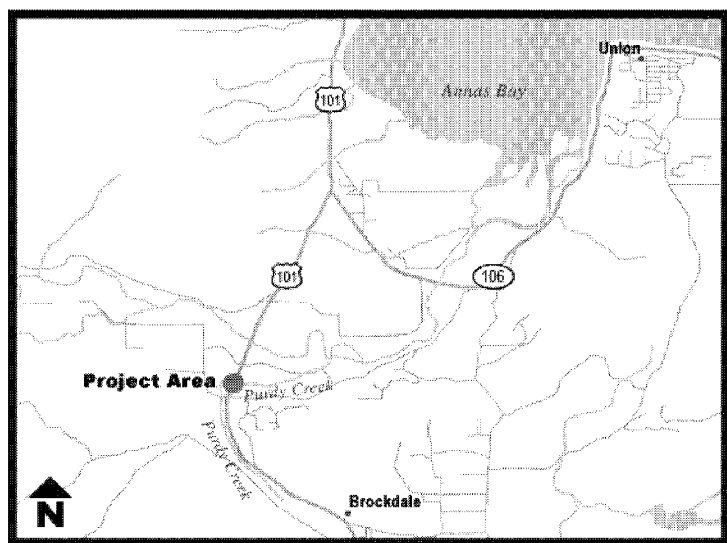




# Purdy Creek Bridge News

Summer 2006

## Skokomish River Valley Vicinity



- Hydraulic studies to predict how changing the Purdy Creek Bridge opening would affect flows in the Skokomish River Valley
- Roadway alignment alternatives, including improvements to improve sight distance at the intersection of US 101 and the Skokomish Valley Road/Purdy Cutoff Road
- Natural resource surveys, including studying wetlands located close to the Purdy Creek Bridge
- Alternatives for maintaining traffic on US 101 during construction
- How the project may affect private property owners

WSDOT is hosting a public open house to present recommendations for the size and location of the bridge.

DATE & TIME: Tuesday, July 25, 2006, 4 – 7 pm

LOCATION: Hood Canal Elementary and Junior High School.

### Public Open House Scheduled for Purdy Creek Bridge Replacement Project



The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is preparing to replace the US 101 Purdy Creek Bridge in the Skokomish River Valley in Mason County.

The Purdy Creek Bridge is the lowest point of the US 101 in the Skokomish River Valley and the current bridge opening is inadequate to allow floodwaters to pass beneath the roadway. As a result, floods can cause the closure of US 101 and damage the existing bridge.

The 2004 State Legislature tasked WSDOT to construct a raised US 101 roadway and replacement bridge with a sufficient opening to allow floodwater to pass under the bridge and to allow the highway to remain open to traffic during flood events. WSDOT has been studying the following items to form recommendations for the size and location of the proposed bridge:

- Coordination with Mason County, the Skokomish Tribe, and the Mason Conservation District regarding ongoing flood management studies

No formal presentation is planned. Instead, project staff will be available to answer questions and displays showing project features will be available for the duration of the open house. You may arrive any time during the open house; however, the open house will conclude promptly at 7 p.m.

### More About the Project

The US 101 bridge over Purdy Creek was originally constructed in 1932. The bridge was lengthened in the early 1940s and in 1995 emergency repairs were made because the creek was washing away the soil around the bridge footings. The timber trestle is at risk of further damage due to future flood events in the Skokomish River Valley.

This project was identified in the 1997 *Skokomish River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan* prepared by Mason County, and studied further in the 1999 *Skokomish River Emergency Purdy Creek Bridge (No. 101/420) Replacement Hydraulic Study* prepared by WSDOT. In 2004, the Legislature tasked WSDOT to construct a raised US 101 roadway and replacement bridge with a

*Continued on next page*

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**Title VI Statement to Public:** It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on grounds of race, color, national origin and sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact OEO's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7098.

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Washington State  
Department of Transportation  
Tumwater Design Office  
P.O. Box 47446  
Olympia, WA 98504-7446



# Purdy Creek Bridge News Summer 2006



Washington State  
Department of Transportation

## Open House Scheduled

**Tuesday, July 25, 2006**  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Hood Canal Elementary and  
Junior High School**  
N 111 State Route 106  
Shelton, WA 98584

The Washington State Department of Transportation will host an open house on July 25, 2006 to present information regarding the Purdy Creek Bridge Replacement Project. No formal presentation is planned. Instead, project staff will be available to answer questions and displays showing project features will be available for the duration of the open house. You may arrive any time during the open house; however, the open house will conclude promptly at 7 p.m.

If you are unable to attend the open house, questions or comments about the project may be directed to the Project Manager:

### **Michele Britton**

P.O. Box 47446  
Olympia, WA 98504-7446  
Telephone: (360) 570-6606  
E-mail: [brittom@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:brittom@wsdot.wa.gov)  
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US101/PurdyCreek>

sufficient opening to allow floodwaters to pass under the bridge and to allow the highway to remain open to traffic during flood events.

A hydraulic analysis, which predicts how the floodwaters might impact the bridge structure, was performed in 1999. It recommended replacing the existing timber trestle bridge with a 460-foot concrete bridge. This analysis also proposed raising the existing roadway profile approximately 11 feet along this section of US 101. The analysis was recently updated with more current survey and stream flow information. The new information confirmed that the roadway profile should be raised, but recommended that the bridge length could be reduced, while remaining clear of the avulsion risk zone

identified by Mason County. As a result the recommended length of the bridge is 330 feet. Construction is expected to begin in early 2008 and be completed in the fall of 2009.

## **PROJECT FEATURES**

### **Safety.**

The new bridge and roadway will result in less closures due to flooding of US 101, which will improve safety to the traveling public. The bridge also will be built to modern design standards with wider lanes and shoulders.

### **Highway System Upgrade.**

The existing bridge is an old timber trestle that requires frequent maintenance and repairs. The new bridge will provide more than 50 years of service to the highway system.

## **Reduced Risk for Catastrophic Failure**

The portion of US 101 over Purdy Creek has had numerous closures due to floodwaters overtopping the roadway and subsequent repairs due to pavement washouts and bridge scour related damages (when creek flows wash away the soil around the bridge footings).

## **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Design work for the replacement bridge began in April 2005. An analysis of the creek and floodplain to help determine the length and height of the new bridge was completed in June 2006. A public open house will be held 25 July 2006 to present preliminary plans and environmental analysis. Construction is expected to begin in early 2008 and be completed in the fall of 2009.